

LIPPINCOTT'S ROSE \$1,250,000 BY FIRE

Central Business Block of
Philadelphia Nearly
Ruined.

BOOK MENSUFFER MOST

Valuable Plates in Vaults Dis-
covered Afterward to Be
Little Injured.

Philadelphia, Nov. 29.—The J. B. Lippincott Publishing Company, known the world over, was made homeless yesterday by a fire which completely destroyed its big building in Filbert street.

The Lippincotts are publishers of many high-class reference books and periodicals. In the building destroyed yesterday were stored manuscripts and plates valued at \$200,000. The total loss of the company will reach, according to a member of the firm, \$1,250,000. The total loss by the flames will aggregate fully \$2,000,000.

There were two fires, the larger of which started from an electric spark in the basement of the department store of Partridge & Richardson, at Eighth and Filbert streets, in the heart of the business section of the city. The flames were discovered at 6:30 a. m. They could not be controlled until they had spread to adjoining buildings.

With the firemen were centering their efforts here another blaze four blocks away caused a loss of \$110,000. The losses by both fires are covered by insurance.

Fight for Four Hours.
Eighth and Filbert streets are very narrow. There was a strong wind blowing, and the firemen had the extra duty of preventing the ignition of buildings on the opposite sides of the streets. The fight between the firemen and flames was unceasing for four hours.

No deaths resulted from the blaze, though it involved to greater or lesser extent most of the buildings in an entire block. Benjamin Bitton was severely burned. He was compelled to jump from the second story to the pavement, thus receiving additional injuries. Fireman Griffith was burned about the face and body.

Not only every engine in the city was engaged, but the Camden Fire Department also exhausted its resources. Besides the handful of narrow streets, the fire apparatus became entangled in the network of telephone and telegraph wires about the upper stories of the burning buildings.

Many Valuable Plates Saved.
The Lippincott loss stated here is a large and conservative estimate. At one time it was believed that the publishers would lose fully \$2,000,000. When it became possible to reach the vaults of the company it was found that many valuable plates were saved. Those of the American edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica were uninjured.

The Lippincott firm is seriously crippled for some time to come. Not since its establishment, in 1830, has it received such a blow.

The early career of the house was devoted to the publication of Bibles and prayer books. Within the last ten years it has developed all sorts of the printing, publishing and stationery lines.

Changes Made Last Year.
In 1898 it disposed of all its business except the manufacture and wholesaling of its own publications and certain other lines bearing no direct relation to the standard reference books used in all parts of the world. Its magazine bearing the name of Lippincott was first issued in 1898.

L. B. Brothers, whose department store and publishing house were destroyed, lost their loss at \$400,000. Partridge & Richardson believe themselves to be losers to the extent of \$300,000. There are a score of smaller losses.

More than 2,000 women and children are thrown out of employment.

VREELAND EXPLAINS AIR POWER EXTENSION.

American Company, He Says, Has Combined Antagonistic Interests of Two Leading Concerns.

H. H. Vreeland, president of the American Air Power Company, said yesterday that numerous published accounts from unauthorized sources as to the purposes and scope of the company had caused in the public mind a confusion as to the new motive power and its connection with the Metropolitan Street Railway Company, of which he is also president.

"Since the development has gone on in the type of motor, and in Chicago with the electric type, and in New York with the steam type, it is a comparison of the relative economies of these two systems is the only basis for comparison in the near future to make such a test in New York."

Corn Stalks Are Now Valuable.
Washington, Nov. 29.—A series of experiments by the Agricultural Department have developed a new use for corn stalks, from which a valuable horse and cattle feed can be made. The department has developed a new method for preparing a high quality feed from the stalks for a much longer period than the stalks are usually used for. The new feed will be particularly valuable for the horse and cattle. The stalks are made into a minimum cost in Cuba and the States. The stalks are made into a minimum cost in Cuba and the States. The stalks are made into a minimum cost in Cuba and the States.

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